

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 SY-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /058 W
-----111352 051408Z /53

O R 051040Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6516
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2052

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: POLICE VISIT SOWETO READING ROOM

SUMMARY: PERSONS STATING THEY REPRESENTED WEST RAND BOARD
BUT BELIEVED TO BE POLICE VISITED SOWETO READING ROOM AUGUST 4.
QUESTIONING FOCUSED ON USIS FSL BASIL ARENDSE. THIS IS SECOND TIME
IN PAST YEAR WHEN ARENDSE SUBJECT OF INDIRECT PRESSURE FROM
AUTHORITIES.

ON AUG 4, ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS SOWETO YMCA WAS VISITED
BY THE AUTHORITIES.

1. AT 0930 BLACK AGENT ENTERED YMCA AND ASKED YMCA DIRECTOR MANDLA
DUBE WHERE DIRECTOR OF USIS READING ROOM WAS. DUBE RESPONDED THAT
READING ROOM ONLY OPENS AT 1230. AT LEAST TWO WHITES WERE SEEN
IN CAR WHILE BLACK AGENT POSED QUESTIONS.

2. AT 1230 KNOWN BLACK CID SECURITY POLICE) AGENT VISITED READING
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ROOM AND ASKED FSL DIRECTOR ZUKO TOFILE WHERE BASIL ARENDSE WAS.
TOFILE REPLIED THAT ARENDSE WORKS AT JOHANNESBURG MAIN OFFICE.
AGENT THEN ASKED HOW OFTEN ARENDSE VISITS READING ROOM. TOFILE
REPLIED ONLY WHEN ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED WITH FILM PROGRAMMING,
EXHIBITS OR SPECIAL PROGRAMS. AGENT ASKED FOR ARENDSE'S TELEPHONE
NUMBERE AND WAS GIVEN USIS JOHANNES URG NUMBER.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1330, THREE WHITE MEN ENTERED READING ROOM. ABOUT 12 STUDENTS WERE USING THE FACILITIES. UPON SEEING AGENTS THEY CLEARED OUT. (SAME THREE MEN HAD BEEN OBSERVED DAY BEFORE IN FRONT OF YMCA IN GREEN 4100 CHEVROLET WHICH KNOWN TO BE SECURITY POLICE VEHICLE). MEN ASKED TOFILE IF HE WAS BASIL. HE RESPONDED NO, HE WAS ZUKO TOFILE, READING ROOM DIRECTOR. TOFILE EXPLAINED BASIL ARENDSE WORKS AT MAIN USIS OFFICE IN JOHANNESBURG. THREE MEN SAID THEY REPRESENTED WEST RAND BOARD. THEY ASKED IF USIS PAYS RENT TO YMCA; TOFILE RESPONDED THAT MONTHLY FEE PAID FOR MAINTENANCE OF ROOM. AGENTS LOOKED AROUND ROOM AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROJECTOR AND FILMS. THEY ASKED HOW OFTEN FILMS ARE SHOWN. TOFILE REPLIED THERE ARE REGULAR TUESDAY EVENING FILM PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL FILMS ARE SHOWN AT OTHER TIMES. FILMS ARE ALSO LOANED TO MEMBERS. THEY ASKED HOW OFTEN ARENDSE VISITS READING ROOM. TOFILE SAID ONLY WHEN HE IS NEEDED. WHEN AGENTS ASKED HOW OFTEN, TOFILE SAID HE DOES NOT KEEP CHECK. AGENTS THEN ASKED HOW OFTEN JACOBSEN VISITS READING ROOM. ZUKO ASKED IF THEY WERE REFERRING TO USIS DIRECTOR AND THEY SAID YES. TOFILE REPLIED "AS OFTEN AS HE LIKES". AGENTS THEN ASKED WHAT DIRECTOR DOES DURING HIS VISITS. TOFILE REPLIED: HE CHECKS ON OPERATION OF READING ROOM AND "SEES IF I'M DOING MY WORK WELL...HE IS MY BOSS." THREE MEN THEN ASKED FOR TELEPHONE NUMBERS WHERE ARENDSE CAN BE REACHED. TOFILE GAVE THEM OFFICE NUMBER, SAYING HE DOES NOT KNOW HOME NUMBER.

4. BEFORE LEAVING, AGENTS SAID YMCA WAS REQUESTIN A GRANT FROM WEST RAND BOARD WHICH WAS REASON FOR VISIT. THEY ASKED TOFILE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A TOUR OF YMCA WHICH HE GAVE THEM. DURING TOUR THREE MEN APPEARED ONLY CASUALLY INTERESTED IN OTHER FACILITIES. TOFILE OPINES THAT PURPOSE OF INSPECTION WAS USIS READING ROOM NOT YMCA IN GENERAL, THAT MEN WERE POLICEMEN, NOT WRAB OFFICIALS AS THEY CLAIMED.

5. TOFILE IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED ABPAO HAHN AND RELATED SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION AFTER THIRD VISIT.

6. ARENDSE HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED DIRECTLY BY POLICE.

NOTE: THIS IS SECOND TIME IN PAST YEAR AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FSL BASIL ARENDSE'S USIS ACTIVITIES. IN DECEMBER, 1976 FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WERE QUERIED ABOUT ARENDSE, WHAT HE DID AND WHOM HE INVITED TO HIS HOME.

7. THIS IS FIRST SUCH INCIDENT AT READING ROOM WHERE AGENTS ANNOUNCING THEMSELVES AS OFFICIALS HAVE ENTERED AND INTERROGATED EMPLOYEE. IT IS KNOWN THAT AGENTS HAVE OCCASIONALLY ENTERED ROOM AND LOOKED AROUND BRIEFLY AND DEPARTED WITHOUT ANNOUNCING THEMSELVES.

8. READING ROOM IS NOT PRECISELY MIRROR EXTENSION OF USIS FACILITY IN DOWNTOWN JOHANNESBURG IN THAT UNDER ORIGINAL AGREEMENT IT IS JOINT FACILITY (AND SO NOTIFIED TO DFA) OF AMDA (AFRICAN MUSIC AND DRAMA ASSOCIATION) AND USIS AND ITS OFFICIAL TITLE IS AMDA-USIS READING ROOM.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: READING ROOMS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLICE VISIT SOWETO READING ROOM SUMMARY: PERSONS STATING THEY REPRESENTED WEST RAND BOARD BUT BELIEVED TO BE POLICE VISITED SOWETO READING R
TAGS: PINS, SF, USIS
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c8fc6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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